In The Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An expandable stent comprising:

an expandable stent framework, the stent framework expandable from a reduced diameter configuration to a fully expanded configuration;

and at least one stent retaining segment ~~disposed~~ interwoven about the stent, the at least one stent retaining segment having a coating thereon, the coating comprising at least one therapeutic agent, the stent retaining segment maintaining the stent framework in a less than fully expanded configuration, the stent retaining segment constructed and arranged to fail upon degradation of at least a portion of the segment.

Claims 2-29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A covering for covering at least a portion of a stent, the covering comprising:

a tubular section of material for covering an unexpanded stent wherein such tubular section is dimensioned so as to constrain the expansion of the stent, and wherein a pattern of perforations provided in the tubular section is selected to modify the expansion characteristics of the section and thereby constrain the expansion of the underlying stent, at least a portion of the tubular section having a coating thereon, the coating comprising at least one therapeutic agent.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) A covering for covering at least a portion of a stent, the covering comprising:

a tubular section of polymeric material for covering an unexpanded stent wherein such tubular section is dimensioned so as to constrain the expansion of the stent, and wherein a pattern of perforations provided in the tubular section is selected to modify the expansion characteristics of the section and thereby constrain the expansion of the underlying stent, at least a portion of the tubular section comprising at least one therapeutic agent.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) A covering for covering at least a portion of a stent, the covering comprising:

a tubular section of bio-stable material for covering an unexpanded stent wherein such tubular section is dimensioned so as to constrain the expansion of the stent, and wherein a pattern of perforations provided in the tubular section is selected to modify the expansion characteristics of the section and thereby constrain the expansion of the underlying stent, at least a portion of the tubular section comprising at least one therapeutic agent.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein, the stent retaining segment is further constructed and arranged to elute the at least one therapeutic agent upon degradation of the at least a portion of the segment.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: anti-inflammatory agents, anti-proliferative agents, anti-platelet agents, anti-thrombin agents, anti-oxidant agents, gene therapy agents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: radiochemicals, human growth factors, anticoagulants, RGD (Arginine-Glycine-Aspartic Acid) peptide-containing compounds, heparin, antithrombin compounds, platelet receptor antagonists, antibodies, aspirin, prostaglandin inhibitors, platelet inhibitors, antiplatelet peptides, vascular cell growth inhibitors, DNA, RNA, cholesterol-lowering agents, vasodilating agents, Taxol™ (paclitaxel), 5-Fluorouracil, Beta-Estradiol, metabolites, and any combinations thereof.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 30 wherein, the at least a portion of the tubular section is constructed and arranged to elute the at least one therapeutic agent.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 30 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: anti-inflammatory agents,

anti-proliferative agents, anti-platelet agents, anti-thrombin agents, anti-oxidant agents, gene therapy agents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 30 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: radiochemicals, human growth factors, anticoagulants, RGD (Arginine-Glycine-Aspartic Acid) peptide-containing compounds, heparin, antithrombin compounds, platelet receptor antagonists, antibodies, aspirin, prostaglandin inhibitors, platelet inhibitors, antiplatelet peptides, vascular cell growth inhibitors, DNA, RNA, cholesterol-lowering agents, vasodilating agents, Taxol™ (paclitaxel), 5-Fluorouracil, Beta-Estradiol, metabolites, and any combinations thereof.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 31 wherein, the at least a portion of the tubular section is constructed and arranged to elute the at least one therapeutic agent.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 31 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: anti-inflammatory agents, anti-proliferative agents, anti-platelet agents, anti-thrombin agents, anti-oxidant agents, gene therapy agents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 31 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: radiochemicals, human growth factors, anticoagulants, RGD (Arginine-Glycine-Aspartic Acid) peptide-containing compounds, heparin, antithrombin compounds, platelet receptor antagonists, antibodies, aspirin, prostaglandin inhibitors, platelet inhibitors, antiplatelet peptides, vascular cell growth inhibitors, DNA, RNA, cholesterol-lowering agents, vasodilating agents, Taxol™ (paclitaxel), 5-Fluorouracil, Beta-Estradiol, metabolites, and any combinations thereof.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 32 wherein, the at least a portion of the tubular section is constructed and arranged to elute the at least one therapeutic agent.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 32 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: anti-inflammatory agents, anti-proliferative agents, anti-platelet agents, anti-thrombin agents, anti-oxidant agents, gene therapy agents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented) The covering of claim 32 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: radiochemicals, human growth factors, anticoagulants, RGD (Arginine-Glycine-Aspartic Acid) peptide-containing compounds, heparin, antithrombin compounds, platelet receptor antagonists, antibodies, aspirin, prostaglandin inhibitors, platelet inhibitors, antiplatelet peptides, vascular cell growth inhibitors, DNA, RNA, cholesterol-lowering agents, vasodilating agents, Taxol™ (paclitaxel), 5-Fluorouracil, Beta-Estradiol, metabolites, and any combinations thereof.